



## Acknowledging Traditional Territory

**The only people who would *Welcome* to the Territory are the First Nations people who are traditionally/originally from that territory. The majority of school district personnel likely would *Acknowledge* Territory.**

- Purpose: Acknowledging territory is a way of honouring and showing respect for a group of people who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial. This is something non-Indigenous people do, to acknowledge that fact that they are settlers on this land and that this land was not ceded.
- Acknowledging territory is performed at any important function such as a school assembly, awards night, graduation, a celebration including Indigenous communities. It can also be performed before an important meeting or presentation.
- The host is the person who would acknowledge territory, you would usually not ask a guest to acknowledge territory as it is not his/her function/event. It is not necessary to have an Indigenous person acknowledge territory. It is not appropriate to single out Indigenous people/students to participate in the acknowledgement as, they are:
  - a) not the host of the event and,
  - b) the acknowledgement is the work of non-Indigenous people.
- Acknowledgement/Welcome is usually the first item on the agenda. If you forget or it has not been done for some reason, take a moment to acknowledge the land and move forward.
- For larger events it is always respectful to have a member of the local First Nation, preferably an Elder, perform a welcome, if possible. This would require an honorarium to be given to this person, to acknowledge their knowledge and respect within the community.
- Seek out the name of the traditional territory you will be on, if you are travelling to speak and/or work with people.